

ZYCYE WARSZAWY July 23, 1959

Interview with Jan Karol Wende regarding the 48th Interparliamentary Union Congress to be held in Warsaw.

Mr. Wende, Vice Chairman of the Polish Interparliamentary group, was asked first about "technical" information concerning the forthcoming conference. He answered that the Interparliamentary Union Congress will start on August 25. The following day, August 26, will be the meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council of the Union. On August 27 the plenary meeting will start.

The following points will be discussed in the plenary meeting:

1. The report of Mr. de Blonay, Secretary General of the Interparliamentary Union.
2. The removal of obstacles in international trade.
3. International security and disarmament.
4. The role of parliaments in the defense of rights of individuals.
5. General education to promote international understanding.
6. Development of tourist trade.

During the discussion on international security and disarmament, the problem of the possibility of a partial regional solution to disarmament similar to the Rapacki Plan will be raised.

On the question of how international opinion has reacted to the forthcoming Interparliamentary Union Congress, Mr. Wende replied:

According to letters received and discussions with delegates of various countries, I have to say that public opinion is very interested in the meeting for two reasons: (1) the program of the conference deals with important problems connected with today's international situation, and (2) the conference will take place in Poland -- a country which has aroused international interest.

We are expecting delegates from fifty-six countries -- members of the Union from East and West. Already, one month before the opening of the conference, over thirty countries have confirmed their participation.

The names of some of these delegates are:

Belgium -	Mr. Pholien (Former Prime Minister)	
	Mr. Brasseur (Vice President of the Belgium Parliament)	
Norway --	Mr. Finn Moe (Minister for many years and member of the Social Democratic Party)	
Sweden --	Mr. Sandier (Former Prime Minister, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Chairman of Sweden's Parlia- mentary Commission for Foreign Affairs.)	
Switzerland --	Mr. Dietschi (Speaker of Parliament)	Mr. Lusser (Chairman of the Chamber of Cantons)
Turkey --	Mr. Erkan (Chairman of the Turkish Parliament)	
	Mr. Polatkan (Minister of Finance)	
Great Britain -	Mr. Shirwell (Former Labor Party Minister of Defense)	
Italy --	Mr. Leone (Chairman of the House of Representatives)	
	Professor Pisanelli (President of the Inter- parliamentary Union)	
Israel -	Mr. Nir (Chairman of the Israeli Parliament)	

As observers, there will be taking part in the conference delegates of the UN, of the Economic Commission, of UNESCO, of the International Organization of Labor, and of international economic organizations.

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The Polish delegation will be very large -- about forty persons representing all political parties and non-party deputies. The members of our delegation will take part in the discussions on all problems raised in the conference. I myself will be a reporter in the name of the Union on the problem of international security and disarmament. The Polish delegation intends to take part in four commissions -- economic, social, reduction of armaments, and law. Besides this, because during the conference the Council of the Union will meet, our delegates will take part in discussion of the problems connected with the parliamentary crises in some regions of the world -- for example Pakistan or Burma.

Regarding the organizational preparations for the conference Mr. Wende stated:

The conference will take place in the House of the Polish Parliament. Everything is prepared. We have already installed translation equipment for five languages. There is special radio equipment which will allow the delegates to hear the discussions even outside of the conference room.

We are very happy that the conference will take place for the first time in Poland. We will be able to acquaint the delegates of other countries' parliaments with our old parliamentary tradition and with our present political, economic, social and cultural life. The Polish group of the Interparliamentary Union has prepared and published in several languages the history of the Polish Parliament, the text of the Polish People's Republic Constitution, the most important Polish laws, and some brief information on today's Poland in general.

It is also of some importance that the Union will discuss international problems at the time of the 20th anniversary of Hitler's invasion of Poland.

Regarding unofficial events of the conference, Mr. Wende said:

We foresee some meetings and discussions. There will also be some official banquets. Besides this, during the one day recess in the conference, Sunday, the delegates will be able to see some economic and cultural centers of Poland especially Cracow (cultural center of Poland), Nowa Huta (main steel center built since 1951 by the communist regime), Oswiecim (Auschwitz, concentration camp), Lack, Zelazowa Wola (birthplace of Frederic Chopin), and Warsaw. The delegates can also attend the theater and the performance of "Slask" (Polish folklore group).

Many of the delegates will come to the conference with their wives. There is a special ladies' committee which will provide some entertainment for the "unemployed" guests. We want to show the ladies not only our educational and social organizations but also the Polish fashions.

In conclusion I want to underline the political importance of the conference because there will be here a possibility of very sincere and clear expression of opinions -- sometimes very controversial. It can happen that public opinion of various countries will raise here its voice, through the delegations, putting forth various political ideas which are not always in full accord with the opinions of their respective governments. In such a way the sincere, clear expression of opinions may cause the removal of many misconceptions existing between some countries and will thus bring closer opinions on international controversial problems.

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